

the renunciation of war to the level of a copy-book maxim. Its scope was further limited by the British reply. Chamberlain, who felt no enthusiasm for the plan, explained that he could accept no treaty which would weaken the Covenant and the Locarno pact. The request was made that the Kellogg speech, reserving the right of self-defence, should have the same authority as the treaty. Finally, freedom of action was reserved ** in certain regions the welfare and integrity of which constitute a special and vital interest for our peace and safety. H.M.G. have been at pains to make it clear in the past that interference with these regions cannot be suffered. Their protection against attack is to the British Empire a measure of self-defence." No details of what was popularly described as the British Monroe Doctrine were given, but the reference to Egypt was clear enough.

The Pact signed on August 27, 1928, aroused more interest in America thati in Europe, where the absence of teeth was felt to destroy its value as a practical deterrent from war. If a signatory broke his pledge, was he to be restrained and his victim assisted ? To this vital question it offered no reply. England, like nearly all her co-signatories, had assumed obligations under the Covenant. The United States had not, and they displayed no desire to mix themselves up in a quarrel of the old world. The feeling that the pact was like an outline map prompted Mr. Stimson, Kellogg's successor as Secretary of State, to declare in 1932, with his eye on Japan, that it involved consultation between the signatories if a state ran amok. This, however, was merely a personal opinion, and the pact was contemptuously ignored by Japan, Italy, Germany and Russia during the next few years. If ever an international agreement deserved the name of a scrap of

paper, it was the Pact of Paris. The British Delegation at the Assembly of 1929 proposed that its principle should be worked into the Covenant; but the discussion of the proposed amendments was postponed till 1930, when opposition from several countries led to the dropping of the plan.

The Pact was followed a year later by the decision of the second Labour Government to sign the Optional Clause of the statute creating the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague. A few countries, including France, had already signed, but France had not ratified. Though important cases had been referred to the Court with satisfactory results, there was no obligation to employ its services except for states